

07/28/10

Home Health Operations Committee

Annual Agency Audit and Ops Meeting

The Medicare required annual agency audit was performed in the Home Health office by Dr. David Meyerowitz and Duane Larson. Paul Conrad PT, Administrator assisted in the audit process. The audit found no deficiencies in the CoPs required policies and procedures.

The Ops committee meeting was held at 3:00pm at the Earl Bennett Building. Those in attendance were: Dr David Meyerowitz, Duane Larson, Joe Russell, Joan Lanfear RN, Paul Conrad PT, Karol Conrad PT

Three topics of concern were discussed. A packet of information was provided to each participant listing the impact of each topic on the Home Health agency.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

The Montana law legalizing the use of medical marijuana does not include any regulations regarding dosing, place of consumption, overuse or reporting mechanisms for allied health professionals. This has caused concern on a number of levels for the agency and the nurses.

See packet for information.

The Ops committee suggested these solutions/approaches to the problem:

- Contact the State Health Facility Licensing Bureau and request directives for Home Health from them
- Ask the Home Health agencies on the NAHC list serve if they have any policies they use for medical Marijuana patients
- Contact Home Options at KRMC to see what they are doing with medical marijuana
- Use a notification letter at admit that states the patient may be DC'd from service if their use of medical marijuana causes any adverse events during their episode of care

Once these measures have been completed a report will be made to the committee on what information was gained.

TELEHEALTH MONITORING

Since the policies and procedures for telehealth have been re-written it has become apparent the service does not fit well in the FCHH home care model. The Licensure Bureau required FCHH to treat telehealth like telemetry, with close monitoring and communication with the patient if vital signs were out of MD set parameters. Vitals are dependent on the patient using the equipment correctly and communication depends on the patient answering the phone every time it rings.

In the past the agency was reimbursed for the telehealth program because we were involved in a grant with St Patrick Hospital in Missoula. The grant has finished, and FCHH is not being reimbursed for the rental of the units or the nursing time it takes to run the program.

The Ops committee voted to discontinue the program with the understanding that the program may be reinstituted if payment becomes available.

Honeywell will be contacted to discuss termination of the leases for the 25 units and the central station. No new patients will be admitted to the telehealth program.

QUALITY ASSURANCE /OBQI

The Ops Committee was informed that a .75 FTE position for quality assurance was being added to the staff. An appropriate person was identified on staff and no new employees are being added to fill the position.

The Ops Committee felt this was a Paradigm Management issue and the information was an FYI only for them.